



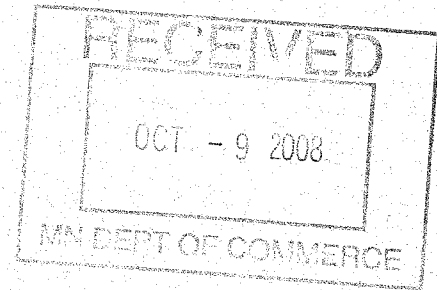
Tine Thevenin

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Bill Storm
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**Subject: Comments regarding the Prairie Island Nuclear Plant EIS/EAW
—public input**

- This issue is before the public because of the risk factor of a nuclear power plant.
Question: In what way is the public assured that the expansion risk is well within the scope of safety?
- I find it disturbing that a simple EIS form is used in a case that carries with it the potentiality of a horrific accident. In the case of a nuclear accident, who cares about the danger to a threatened turtle or historic artifacts? This, to me, makes mockery of the seriousness of the issue of a nuclear facility and expansion.
- If an uprate and additional Dry Cask Storage is not granted, how resourceful will Xcel Energy be in finding ways to keep its customers supplied with energy? What suggested alternatives?
Question: If this resourcefulness exists, why not apply it now? For instance: overseeing that the public and businesses reduce use of energy through incentives, or higher payrates, or penalties for greater-than-expected usage.
- Page 5: ".....the commissioner must find that the applicant has demonstrated that the facility is designed to provide a reasonable expectation that the operation of the facility will not result in groundwater contamination....."
Question: Who sets the standard for "reasonable" expectation? What is meant with "reasonable." Isn't that a rather pliable term?
- Is there a study in place of a worst case accident scenario and its current and long term effect on people and the environment, including migrating birds; down stream from Red Wing, etc. and what is planned to be done in such a case?
- Page 9: Following 5.7 Noise: I urge you to add "Outdoor Lighting."
This should include that only "full cut-off" light fixtures should be used. Not "cut-off" which still allows light trespass into non-targeted areas. The fixtures should be FULL cut-off.

(Light pollution)

In addition, the wattage should be no more than is what is needed, lights should be on only when needed, and the number of lights should not exceed what is needed.

Uplighting causes a sky glow that disrupts the night time sky; Bright lights affect wildlife and beneficial insects; Unnecessary lights cost money and increases pollution. Xcel may do well in setting an example of reducing its own energy usage.

- Page 10: ditto for Outdoor Lighting
- EAW worksheet, page 4: First paragraph, reference to "...temporarily store up to an additional 35 dry casks...."

Comment: We, the public, have been hearing the term "temporary" and "Yucca Mountain" for so long and that we feel the word has a new definition—"we'd like to move it out of here but don't know when it will happen."

So, how serious and likely is "temporary," really, and how can the public be assured that it is truly temporary?

And when the temporary period has indeed come to an end, what is the likelihood that the casks will actually be allowed to be moved?

Great plans for moving can be presented but do we know that these plans are feasible?

- EAW worksheet, page 6: First paragraph: "...security fencing and intrusion detection..."

Question: Also intrusion from the air?

- EAW worksheet, page 20, number 26: ditto concerning outdoor lighting
- EAW worksheet, page 21, number 29: Cumulative Impact
How can this be addressed with any conclusive evidence? Nuclear waste is not like a manure pit or even a garbage dump. Nuclear waste has far greater devastating impact.

Most man-made substances have cumulative impacts. In fact, and perhaps even more serious, is the synergistic impact when multiple man-made substances begin to interact. The result of those interactions are only now beginning to surface and the findings are far from reassuring that all is well. It is an area that has been poorly studied because it is so complex. This does not mean that we can walk away from this elephant in our room. The impact is real, it is here, and it is very disconcerting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.